

## Message Text

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TAGS: SGEN

SUBJ: SENATOR CHURCH INITIATIVE ON INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE AGING

1. SUMMARY. IN MEETING WITH REP OF SEN. CHURCH'S OFFICE,  
UN SECT OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT A UN-SPONSORED INTER-  
NATIONAL YEAR AND CONFERENCE ON THE AGING RAISED SERIOUS  
PROBLEMS AND WAS PREMATURE AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY

2. REP OF SEN. CHURCH'S OFFICE MET WITH UN SECT OFFICIALS  
ON DEC 12 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF UN-SPONSORED INTER-  
NATIONAL YEAR AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE AGING.  
PRESENT AT MEETING WERE GEORGE HOWARD (DIRECTOR, UN  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION), AIDA GINDY (CHIEF, UN  
SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND WELFARE SECTION), TAREK SHUMAN  
(UN, SDD), WILLIAM ORIOL (SEN CHURCH OFFICE), DR. MARTIN  
TAVES (HEW), PROF WALTER BEATTIE (SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY),  
AND JAMES BAKER (USUN).

3. ORIOL OPENED MEETING BY OUTLINING GROWING US INTEREST  
IN PROBLEMS OF THE AGING, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ON WORLD-  
WIDE BASIS, AND BELIEF ON PART OF SOME THAT NOW IS TIME  
TO PROCLAIM AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR ON THE AGING AND TO  
CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE THIS SUBJECT.  
HE SAID THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH STATE  
DEPT (ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM AND JOHN MCDONALD)  
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AND HE NOW SEEKING VIEWS ON UN SECT.

4. IN RESPONSE HOWARD NOTED THE HEAVY ADMIN BURDEN SUCH CONFERENCE'S IMPOSED ON HIS OFFICE AND STATED THAT THE ADDITION OF ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITHIN THE PRESENT WORK PROGRAM (THROUGH 1979) WAS BEYOND HIS CAPACITIES. HE NOTED THAT LDCS DID NOT ACCORD HIGH PRIORITY TO PROBLEM OF THE AGING. NEVERTHELESS, HIS OFFICE HAD MODEST PROGRAM DESIGNED TO GATHER NECESSARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION WHICH COULD LEAD TO POLICY GUIDELINES AND POSSIBLY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. HE SAID SECT HAD DECIDED TO FOCUS EFFORTS ON AGING ALONG THESE LINES AND THAT ANY EFFORT TO DEFLECT RESOURCES TO AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR AND CONFERENCE MIGHT ENDANGER EXISTING PROGRAM. HE ADDED THAT USG MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR EXISTING UN PROGRAM ON AGING. IN THIS CONTEXT, MS. GINDY ADDED THAT SOME CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING INTERREGIONAL ADVISOR SYSTEM TO TEST ACTUAL INTEREST OF LDCS IN PROBLEM OF THE AGING.

5. IN RESPONSE TO ORIOL QUERY, HOWARD SAID POSSIBILITY OF INTER-REGIONAL CONFERENCES UNDER UN AUSPICES RAN INTO PROBLEM THAT REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS ZEALOUSLY AUTONOMOUS AND HAD SETTLED ON RESPECTIVE WORK PROGRAMS FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID HIS OFFICE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS TO SEE IF THEY INTERESTED THIS PROBLEM.

6. HOWARD SAID THAT AT FORTHCOMING COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSD) MEETING (JAN 1975), A EUROPEAN COUNTRY WOULD PROPOSE CONVENING A MEETING OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS TO FOCUS ON PROBLEM OF THE AGING.

7. ON POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN UN AND 1981 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE AGING, HOWARD EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE BUT FRANKLY STATED THAT FOR BUREAUCRATIC REASONS, CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS MIGHT WISH TO RETAIN AUTONOMY.

8. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION, USUN REP STATED WE WOULD IN COURSE OF CSD ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN DEPTH OF CONCERN BY OTHERS, POINTING OUT NEED OF OBTAINING NEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM UN MEMBER STATES FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR YEAR.

9. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION FOLLOWING MEETING, SHUMAN TOLD MISOFF THAT MEETING HAD BEEN USEFUL IN EMPHASIZING TO ORIOL NEED FOR PREPARATORY WORK, THE MANY PITFALLS LURKING IN THE UN SYSTEM, AND IN GENERAL THE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING PREMATURE ACTION.

10. COMMENT. USUN WILL FOLLOW UP, IN PARTICULAR IN SOUND OUT  
REPS AT CSD MEETING. WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT DEPT  
WILL STRESS TO HEW AND SENATOR CHURCH'S OFFICE DESIRABILITY  
OF WORKING THROUGH MISSION RATHER THAN APPROACHING  
SECT DIRECTLY.

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